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What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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WHAT'S NEWS @ Rhode Island College

Established in 1980 Circulation over 52,000



RIC President John Nazarian to retire at end of school year

By Jane Fusco, Editor

RIC's longest serving president – John Nazarian – will soon close the book on his academic career. Nazarian, whose name has become synonymous with education in the state, announced Oct. 30 that he will retire in June 2008, after a 58-year association with the College.

Nazarian, 75, is the eighth president of RIC. He was named president of the College in 1990. He is also the second alumnus of the College to have been named president. (Charles Willard, RIC president from 1973-77, was the first).

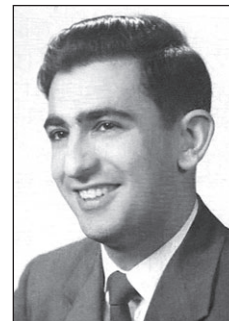
"I am privileged to have had the honor to attend the College, to serve as a member of the faculty, to serve as an administrator, and to serve as its president," Nazarian wrote in an email message to the campus community. "I have experienced its transformation from a teachers' College to the great institution that it is

today – serving the citizens of the state of Rhode Island."

"John Nazarian's presence is evident everywhere on this campus," said a spokesperson for the College. "He is Rhode

Island College's greatest advocate, supporter and friend. His legacy is unmatched."

Nazarian's association with RIC began in 1950 when he was a student at the College, known then as Rhode Island College of Education (RICE). He graduated from RICE in 1954 with



John Nazarian
(RIC graduation
photo 1954)

a bachelor's of education degree with concentrations in math and science, and was appointed an instructor of math and physics immediately upon graduation. He also earned two master's degrees, one in mathematics education from Brown University, and the second in mathematics from the University of Illinois. He received a PhD in mathematics at New York

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RIC Rocks The Vote

Rally, presidential primary to be held November 27, 28.

The College will hold a campaign rally on campus the night before students vote in a campus-wide election.

Rhode Island College students will cast their votes for the next president of the United States on Nov. 28, a year before the actual national election.

Why so soon?

The 2007 RIC primary is part of a yearlong series of initiatives aimed at engaging college students in the electoral process and urging them to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

The College, in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office and the Rhode Island Board of Elections, will hold a campaign rally on Tuesday evening,

Cont. p 3



Story p 12

Wn Quotes...

“For me, the only reason to enter this profession is because you are passionate about teaching and being with kids.”

– Janine Napolitano, RIC grad who is the Rhode Island recipient of a 2007 Milken National Educator Award. [P 16]

“The RIC Primary rally is designed as a means for both Rhode Island citizens and students to enter the conversation about the 2008 presidential campaign.”

– Valerie Endress, communications professor and director of the American Democracy Project at RIC, which is the main sponsor of the Nov. 27 event. A campus-wide presidential primary will be held the next day. [P 3]

“I have experienced (RIC’s) transformation from a teachers’ College to the great institution that it is today – serving the citizens of the state of Rhode Island.”

– RIC President John Nazarian, who announced he would retire in June 2008 after a 58-year association with the College. [P 1, 14]

*This regular feature of What’s News looks at the links between the world and Rhode Island College. The story below was written by **Mary Baker**, RIC assistant professor of anthropology.*

Over the break last summer, I spent a month at the Refugio de Vida Silvestre, Curú in Costa Rica, where I’ve studied groups of white-faced capuchin monkeys since 1991. In a behavior called “fur rubbing,” these monkeys apply plants, citrus fruit and clematis over their bodies. The behavior is highly energetic, almost frantic in appearance. The monkeys pound and bite the fruit and then vigorously rub their fur. As with other intense behaviors, the monkeys begin salivating and drooling. Citrus pulp and seeds, along with monkey spit, fly all over the place as the monkeys continue rubbing, until their fur is saturated. (You can see examples of this behavior at www.ric.edu/faculty/mbaker/rubbing.html.)

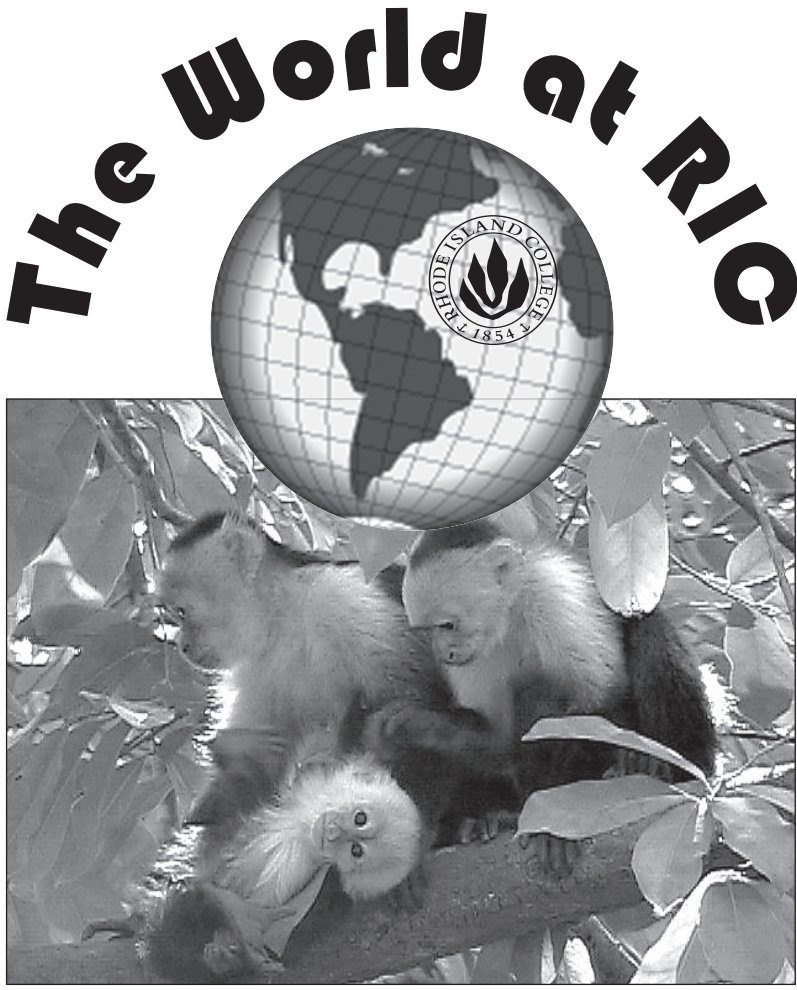


MARY BAKER

scratches to heal. The antibiotics in the citrus juice prevented skin infections I had been experiencing and the antihistamine in citrus was found to be more effective than the over-the-counter medications I had been using.

This behavior appears to be innate: all species of capuchin monkeys are known to fur rub, they do so in the wild and in captivity, and the substances they use for rubbing are either pungent or physically stimulating (when applied to the skin, they create a sensation that can be a pleasant tingling sensation or downright uncomfortable).

I am conducting field experiments to document what aspects of this behavior involve cognition – how the monkeys learn about these plants, which characteristics the monkeys use to decide what makes a substance suitable for rubbing into their fur and, ultimately, whether or not the monkeys are intentionally self-medicating. There are two specific



Capuchin monkeys of Costa Rica are a subject of study for Mary Baker, a member of RIC’s anthropology faculty.

monkeys know about the substances they use and how flexible is their behavior? If the monkeys understand these plants are beneficial for them, then can they recognize chemical signatures of these plants, and will they rub with novel substances with similar chemical attributes? In other words, do the monkeys recognize specific qualities in the plants they use for rubbing that, when found in other items, make them acceptable rubbing material as well? These experiments consist of offering the monkeys novel substances with similar chemistry, odor, taste and texture to see how the monkeys decide what is acceptable rubbing material.

I am conducting field experiments to document what aspects of [fur rubbing] involve cognition – how the monkeys learn about these plants, which characteristics the monkeys use to decide what makes a substance suitable for rubbing into their fur and, ultimately, whether or not the monkeys are intentionally self-medicating.

My long-term plans include involving the local high school students, encouraging them to assist in the interviewing process, so they can learn about traditional healing methods, thus protecting the knowledge from becoming lost. The high school students can fulfill school requirements tending the garden, and they will also be able to raise funds for their schools by selling teas and other remedies. These students will also be able to earn wages leading tours of the medicinal garden and trail.

questions I am asking: First, by what age can monkeys identify medicinal plants used for rubbing? Are there differences in ability gained through experience to recognize rubbing materials? If adults and older juveniles can readily identify such materials, but young juveniles and infants make mistakes, this would indicate learning through experience and exposure. I am offering the monkeys plants with similar appearance and texture to document how the monkeys learn about these plants.

The second primary question is, what do the monkeys know about the substances they use and how flexible is their behavior? If the monkeys understand these plants are beneficial for them, then can they recognize chemical signatures of these plants, and will they rub with novel substances with similar chemical attributes? In other words, do the monkeys recognize specific qualities in the plants they use for rubbing that, when found in other items, make them acceptable rubbing material as well? These experiments consist of offering the monkeys novel substances with similar chemistry, odor, taste and texture to see how the monkeys decide what is acceptable rubbing material.

I have found, through talking with locals in Costa Rica and review of the published literature, that all but one of the plants are used by indigenous peoples to repel insects and to treat skin infections. I plan to return during the January break and next summer to begin interviewing traditional healers in the local human communities about their knowledge of the plants used by the monkeys and other medicinal substances as well.

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Story ideas are welcome. Call (401) 456-8090 or email rmartin@ric.edu.

Rock the Vote cont.

Nov. 27, from 6-9 p.m. in Roberts Auditorium, where representatives from each of the candidate’s campaigns will convene to discuss the important issues of the 2008 election. Each representative is invited to hold a demonstration to drum up support for the candidate and answer students’ questions about the candidate’s stand on issues. Commercials and taped messages from the candidates will be shown throughout the rally.

Representatives from the Giuliani, Romney, McCain, Thompson, Tancredo, Biden, Clinton, Edwards, Gravel, Obama and Kucinich campaigns have thus far confirmed attendance for the November 27 rally.

Victor Profughi, noted political analyst and RIC professor emeritus of political science, will moderate.

The event is open to the public.

“The primary debates are stacked with candidates, the issues are complex. And this is the first time in over 50 years in which we don’t have an incumbent president or vice president running. All reasons for making this election more difficult to follow,” said Valerie Endress, associate professor of communications and director of the American Democracy Project at RIC, which is the primary sponsor of the event.

The RIC polls will open early on Wednesday, Nov. 28, so students can vote for the candidate of their choice in a campus-wide primary. Actual ballots and voting machines will be set up in the Student Union and Alger Hall. The RIC polls will open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

Voter registration will also take place on site both days.

The RIC primary will help demonstrate to students the importance of casting a vote. “Young people intuitively understand that politicians don’t pay attention to them because they don’t vote, yet at the same time they seem to believe that politics doesn’t really affect them,” said Michelle Brophy-Baermann, RIC assistant professor of political science, and one of the event organizers.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), 18-24 year-olds historically vote least and are dead last when compared to other age groups. In 2004, though 18-24 year olds voting rose to 47 percent, an 11 percent increase from the

2000 election, they still trailed the 25-34 age group by nine percent. In 1996 and 2000, youth voting decreased to all-time lows, with 32 percent and 36 percent respectively. The highest percentage of 18-24 votes was in 1992 with 48 percent voting.

“The RIC Primary rally is designed as a means for both Rhode Island citizens and students to enter the conversation about the 2008 presidential campaign. In a single evening, the audience will learn about each of the candidates’ positions on important issues – especially those of interest to our state,” said Endress.

It will also provide a look at current trends locally. “Our students come from all around the state and their votes will give us a glimpse of what the voters and the youth are thinking about the 2008 race,” said Kay Israel, RIC associate professor of communications, who solicited the campaigns’ participation.

The Secretary of State’s office will report the election results immediately after the polls close.

Other events on voting day include the Rhode Island premiere of the documentary film, *Running in High Heels*, which follows the last months of the campaign of Emily Csendes, the 29-year-old who ran for State Senate in New York’s 29th District, plus panel discussions on why women need to run – and win – elections, and politics and the college student. (See RIC Primary schedule at right.)

“If we can get students involved in thinking about the upcoming election, if we can build a sense of

efficacy within students that has an impact on the political process, and if we can build upon their political knowledge, then the entire event will be a success,” said Brian Hull, RIC student and president of the political science club.

RIC Rocks The Vote is endorsed by the national Rock The Vote organization and is sponsored by the RIC chapter of the American Democracy Project (ADP), a national, multi-campus initiative that seeks to create a greater understanding and commitment to informed participation in civic life. RIC is one of 225 higher education institutions in the nation to participate in ADP, and is the only Rhode Island participant.

Event co-sponsors include the Office of the President, Political Science Club, Friends of Adams Library, Women’s Studies Organization and the Office of News and Public Relations.

ROCK THE VOTE®

www.rockthevote.com

American Democracy Project



Latest VISTA volunteer joins campus

By Peter Silveira '08
Staff Writer

A new coordinator of community engagement, Geraldine McPhee, has joined Rhode Island College.

McPhee arrived at RIC in July of this year through the Rhode Island chapter of AmeriCorps*VISTA, a national service program in which volunteers live in the communities they serve, designing programs that will continue after their service is completed. She is here courtesy of a grant from Campus Compact, a collaboration of over 1,000 colleges and universities committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education.

“We are trying to get the word out to people around campus and in the community at large about opportunities for service

learning and civic engagement at RIC,” McPhee said.

“The idea is to have the College work collaboratively with the citizens of Rhode Island.”

VISTA representatives conduct community resource and needs assessments, organize municipal engagement efforts around institutional concerns, and increase campus service and service learning programs.

In her short time at RIC, McPhee has already worked with faculty members to incorporate service-learning activities in the classroom. She intends to continue making inroads

with educators who previously had not considered service learning to be part of their curriculums.

She also plans to partner with RIC alumni to place students into community service roles.

McPhee has been instrumental in the creation of the Scholarship for Service program through R.I. Campus Compact. Supervised by Michelle Brophy-Baermann,



GERALDINE MCPHEE

assistant professor of political science, the program rewards five students who are dedicated to community service (completing 300 or more hours). Each receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

“We need to get people talking about the great things going on at RIC,” said McPhee.

One of the many efforts intended to unite RIC students with the people of Rhode Island is the American Democracy Project (ADP).

Since 2004, RIC has been a member of the ADP, a coalition of 188 academic institutions

assembled by *The New York Times* and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The purpose of the ADP is to transform RIC and other affiliated colleges throughout the country into connected campuses in and around the community.

“[McPhee] wears a lot of hats,” said Valerie Endress, associate professor of communications and

RIC PRIMARY SCHEDULE – NOV. 28

12:30 p.m.

Welcome to Day’s Events

12:35 – 2:30 p.m.

Rhode Island Premiere of the Documentary Film, *Running in High Heels*

Welcome: Carol Hryciw-Wing, associate professor and interim director of Adams Library.

Introduction to the Film: Paula Richer, RIC student and *Anchor* reporter.

Running in High Heels follows the last months of the campaign of Emily Csendes, the 29-year-old who ran for state senate in New York’s 29th District. Interspersed with Csendes’ story are interviews with notable women from the left and right of the American political spectrum.

Discussion Leaders: Robin Dionne and Jen Magaw, RIC students and members of Women’s Studies Organization.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion: The Elections Race: Why Women Need to Run (and Win)

Moderator: Michelle Brophy-Baermann, assistant professor of political science.

Panelists: Myrth York, Democratic candidate for R.I. Governor; Susan A. Story, deputy minority leader, R.I. House of Representatives; Kathleen Connell, former R.I. secretary of state; Jennifer Lawless, Democratic candidate in 2006 R.I. congressional primary; Sandy Barone, former member of R.I. House of Representatives; Hollie Courage, president of League of Women Voters of Rhode Island.

4:30 p.m.

RIC Rocks The Vote!

RIC Political Science Club invites all students with voting stickers to a pizza party in Alger 110.

5:15 p.m.

Results of the RIC Primary announced
R.I. voter registration drive.

6 – 8:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Politics and the College Student: How Do We Rock the Vote?

Moderator: Brian Hull, RIC student and president of the Political Science Club.

Panelists: Edwin R. Pacheco, R.I. House of Representatives, primary sponsor of assembly bill to pre-register youth to vote; David Segal, R.I. House of Representatives and formerly youngest serving member of Providence City Council; John Della Volpe, director of polling at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics, National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement at Harvard’s IOP; Meghan Purvis, policy director for Ocean State Action.

Discussion Leaders: Kristine Pyzynski and Jarred Rickey, RIC students and members of the Political Science Club.

director of ADP at the College.

“But the most important hat is the one that is devoted to the further development of service learning on campus and planning of the center for civic engagement.”

RIC is currently the only accredited college or university in the state that doesn’t have a center exclusively dedicated to civic engagement.

McPhee intends to help change that.

By looking at models used locally and across the nation, she has an opportunity to capitalize on the best plans and design one specifically geared towards RIC’s needs.

McPhee said that a community feel to the College would result in the retention of students.

“We want students to get involved,” she said.

As the semester rolls on, watch for impending civic engagement opportunities by visiting RIC’s website (www.ric.edu). You can also contact McPhee at (401) 456-2706 or gmcphée_t@ric.edu.

NEWS FROM THE Foundation & Alumni Offices



BY PEG BROWN
*Vice President,
Development and College Relations*



from their annual gross income for qualified charitable distributions from IRAs. These rollovers **CAN** be used to satisfy the minimum distribution requirements that are required once an individual turns 70 ½. There are, of course, a few exclusions. However, for those who choose this way to make a gift, there can be some outstanding tax advantages that benefit you and your family while creating a legacy in perpetuity for the organizations you hold dear.

Sunrise...Sunset
Time nears for end of IRA charitable rollover opportunity

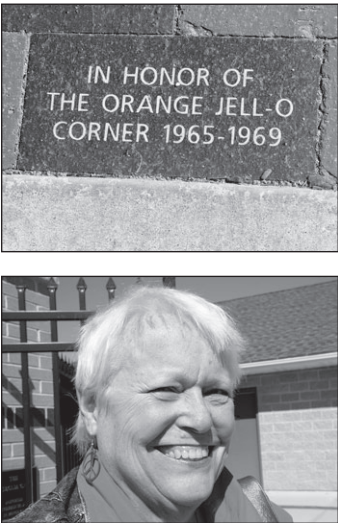
You may have been receiving notices from your favorite non-profits that **Dec. 31, 2007**, is the expiration date for the provision of the Pension Protection Plan of 2006 that allows individuals to make a distribution from a qualified IRA plan to a charitable organization, tax free. Several of the College’s donors have taken advantage of the opportunity that allows donors who are 70 ½ or over to exclude up to \$100,000

To consider taking advantage of this opportunity, please consult with your investment or tax advisory **SOON!**
The Foundation can work with you to make sure that your gift will support the programs and initiatives of your choosing.
Make a difference – take advantage – make that call.
Rhode Island College Foundation
(401) 456-8105
mbrown@ric.edu



Room for more in the Legacy Walk!

Over 700 bricks and pavers have been purchased since the Legacy Walk began in 2004 – but there is room for lots more! A brick in someone’s honor makes a great holiday gift. To download an order form, visit our website at www.ric.edu/givetoric/brickcampaign.php. Call (401) 456-8827 to order over the phone with your VISA or MasterCard.



You can join Vin Cullen ’55, above, RIC Hall of Famer who honored his family and friends; Elise Litterick ’69, above, a member of the Orange Jell-o Corner lunch club from 1965-69; and hundreds of alumni and friends in the Legacy Walk at RIC.



Students working for the Phonathon this fall include (top row, from left) Casey Belisle, Ibilolia Holder, Michelle Liese; (middle row) Sarah Lemmo, Meredith Garrity, Sarah Voccio, Katie Gamble; (bottom row) Elisa Mariorenzi, Melissa Brousseau, Rebecca Rattey.

Our Phonathon Callers

This fall, student phonathon callers are helping to raise funds for the Annual Fund. The callers have been asking alumni to increase their giving by 50 percent in honor of RIC’s 50-year anniversary on the Mt. Pleasant campus. Please give generously when they call to help us reach our goal of \$85,000. Some of our callers themselves have been recipients of Alumni Association scholarships. They will be calling for pledges until late November. Thank you for making a pledge when they call!

Remembering...



Mary Frances ("Fran") Sherlock Campbell '35, who for several years led RIC’s alumni commencement march as the most “senior” alum, died on Oct. 27 after a short illness. She was 93. A lifelong resident of Pawtucket, she was the eldest of eight children and the first of many in her immediate and extended family to graduate from the College. She was the sister of the late Rep. Paul Sherlock M ’60, for whom the Sherlock Center at RIC is named. Donations in her memory can be sent to the RIC Foundation, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908.



Natalie Howe '24 died on Oct. 1 at the North Bay Manor Nursing Home in Smithfield at the age of 103. She had received a Presidential Medal honoring her as the College’s oldest known living graduate at commencement ceremonies in 2004. Howe taught kindergarten for many years. She was a major donor to the RIC Annual Fund. Until just a few years ago, Howe attended reunion lunches at the College, always giving President Nazarian a firm handshake with the words “I’ll see you next year” on the way out.

Gonsalves Fund seeking applicants for first time

The Michael J. Gonsalves Scholarship Fund at Rhode Island College is requesting applicants for the 2008-09 academic year. This is the first time applicants have been sought for the fund. Gonsalves, known as “The Doctor” on WHJY radio, died in The Station nightclub fire on Feb. 20, 2003. His love of music led him back to his alma mater to mentor anyone showing an interest in pursuing a career in radio. He was also an active member of Kappa Delta Phi fraternity and stayed in contact with successive classes of young men to help keep a sense of fraternity alive at the College. First consideration for a scholarship will go to anyone directly affected by The Station fire. Since he did so much to keep Kappa Delta Phi alive, second consideration will be given to the offspring of his fraternity brothers.

However, since the pool of applicants for both groups is finite, the scholarship will be opened up to communications students in good academic standing who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service. Applicants should send a letter or email requesting support from the Michael J. Gonsalves Fund, RIC Foundation, to V.P. of Development, Peg Brown. Students should outline their qualifications and include their status (matriculating or non-matriculating) and identification number. All applications must be received by the final week of February 2008. Two equal awards will be made based on the funds available for expenditure. Winners will be notified before the start of the next academic year. For more information, contact Thom Cahir at (401) 529-0251 or thomcahir@cox.net.

Over 20 RIC students, alumni in Community Players’ production of *La Cage aux Folles*

By Lauren Mesale ’06
Staff Writer

For many Rhode Islanders, it seems as though everyone you meet either went to, goes to or knows someone at RIC. Marcia Zammarelli ’81, director of the Pawtucket-based Community Players’ new production of *La Cage aux Folles*, can identify with this: more than 20 RIC students and alumni answered the casting call, making up the majority of the cast and crew for the play.

“RIC is a great unifier in the state,” said Zammarelli, who is a costume designer at the College.

Zammarelli said that this production has been a much-needed creative outlet for a large portion of the cast and crew. The studies of RIC grads and students involved range from theatre to social work to psychology.

Led by Zammarelli, with music direction by Esther Zabinski and choreography by Peter Deffet, *La Cage aux Folles* is a boisterous and uplifting celebration of love.

The play focuses on a gay couple who run a nightclub in St. Tropez, on the French Riviera. Their 20 years of domestic tranquility is thrown into turmoil when their son, fathered during a one-night stand, announces he is marrying the daughter of a moral crusader.

The show is filled with dazzling costumes, dance numbers and a Jerry Herman score including the songs *The Best of Times*, *I Am What I Am* and *The Song of the Sand*.

La Cage aux Folles was also the basis for the 1996 film *The Birdcage*, starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane.

The Tony-winning play, which marks the opening of The Community Players’ 87th season, is presented at the Jenks Middle School Auditorium on Division Street in Pawtucket (across from McCoy Stadium).

Performances are scheduled for Nov. 16-18, 23-25 and 30, and Dec. 1 and 2. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Tickets for *La Cage* are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students through high school. Discount rates are also available for all performances for groups of 20 or more. For reservations call (401) 726-6860.

On Friday, Nov. 16, an opening-night party for audience members featuring a meet-and-greet with the cast and crew, backstage tours and free refreshments, will follow the performance.

For more information about The Community Players, visit www.thecommunityplayers.org.



RIC’s presence in *LaCage aux Folles* includes (standing, from left) Laurea Osborne (’04), Michael Hammond ’07, Carol Cardillo ’79, M ’84, John Charette ’86 M ’93, Jennifer Selke ’08, Justin Robinson ’08, Marcia Zammarelli ’81, Christine Lariviere ’08, Sherry Marques ’07, Kevin Broccoli ’06, Esther Zabinski ’02, Steve Morris ’76, Jennifer Drummond ’07; seated, from left are Stephanie Bobola ’07 and Leslie Choquette ’88. (Not pictured are Peter F. Babiec ’65, Marg Cappelli ’84, Nikki Carrara ’04, Peter Deffet, Rob Ferland, Jr. ’05, Dan Fisher ’08 and Brian Mulvey ’73.

Call for nominations 2008 Alumni Awards

Alumni Awards are presented annually in May to graduates and community leaders whose personal and professional attainment and service to the College and the community bring honor upon themselves and upon Rhode Island College. Candidates are chosen on the basis of professional achievement, community service, and service to the College or Alumni Association.

Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Alumni Office by Jan. 15. The process is confidential and individuals should not be notified of their nomination.

Winners will be honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner on May 8, 2008.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Alumna/Alumnus of the Year: Graduate of the College, continuing interest in the College and Alumni Association as represented by outstanding service, and/or by impressive financial contribution.
- Charles B. Willard Achievement Award: Graduate of the College, brought honor to the College by distinguished achievement in his or her field.
- Alumni Service Award: Need not be a graduate of the College but has made a contribution to the College by giving time, talent, or resources; or an outstanding citizen who has made a contribution to the state, or nation which reflects ideals of service to humanity.
- Alumni Faculty Award, Nominees need not be alumni of the College, but shall be employed by the College; made a unique contribution to the College (e.g., wide student commendation for exceptional competence in teaching, printed publication, initiative in research, development of a new program, wide community recognition of quality of service to the community or campus).
- Alumni Staff Award: Nominees need not be alumni of the College, but shall be employed by the College; made a unique contribution to the College (e.g., development of a new program, wide community recognition of quality of service to the community or campus).
- Young Alumni Award: Graduated in the last 10 years from the College, and has made a contribution to the College, since graduation, by giving time, talent, or resources (e.g., mentor of current students or alumni, involvement or volunteer with a campus group or activities, providing internship opportunities to current students or job opportunities to recent graduates).

Name of nominee: _____

Year of graduation: _____

Nominated for: ____ Alumna/us of the Year
____ Charles B. Willard Achievement Award
____ Alumni Service Award ____ Alumni Faculty Award
____ Alumni Staff Award ____ Young Alumni Award

Title: _____

Place of employment: _____

Please attach a detailed nominating statement explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Nominated by: _____ Date: _____

Daytime phone no.: _____

Email address: _____

Mail to Alumni Office, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908; fax to (401) 456-8851; or email to alumni@ric.edu.



Award winners at the Rhode Island Art Education Association’s fall meeting on Oct. 17 are, from left, Cheryl Williams, RIC assistant professor of art and educational studies (Outstanding Art Educator of the Year); Naomi Carr ’98 (Outstanding Elementary Art Educator); Nancy Carriuolo, interim vice president for academic affairs (accepting RIC award for Distinguished Friends of Art Education); Nancy Brandley ’84 (Outstanding Middle Level Educator of the Year); and Laura Travis ’77 (Outstanding Secondary Art Educator of the Year).

RIC Young Alumni Group Sponsors Community Service Event at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank



FOOD SORTING NIGHT

***Tuesday, Nov. 27
200 Niantic Avenue, Providence RI***

This will be the Young Alumni Group’s seventh annual community service night at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. We are in a friendly competition between local college and university alumni clubs culminating in the “Golden Pallet Award,” presented to the club who successfully inspects and sorts the most food during their evening shift.

Join us for pizza at 5 p.m. We will sort 6 - 8 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. for planning purposes.

Alumni, friends, and children over the age of 14 are welcome to attend.



To R.S.V.P. or to be added to the young alumni email list, call Shana Murrell at (401) 456-9625 or email alumni@ric.edu.

RIC Athletic News



30 Years of Intercollegiate Women's Athletics Celebrated



Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts greets those in attendance.



RIC President Nazarian presents All-American Nicole Riley with an award.



The "pioneers" of women's athletics address the audience.



All-American Sue Paul also receives an award.



Members and coaches of the 1981 women's volleyball team are recognized.



Members of the 1984-85 and 1985-86 women's basketball teams take center stage.



Jessica Schiano '01 from 92 PRO-FM hosts the event.



The 2007 RIC softball team is honored.



Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88, left, and Cathy Lanni '88 receive applause.

By Don Tencher
Director of Athletics

Over 225 people attended the 30th Anniversary of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics at the College celebration on Friday, Oct. 19, in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. The night was informative, as well as celebratory, and a number of milestones over the last 30 years were highlighted.

The evening started with a welcome from RIC President Nazarian and greetings from Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts. This was followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Peg Brown, vice president for development and college relations, comprised of distinguished women who were actively involved in the advancement of women's athletics.

The panel included Wilma Briggs, who played professional baseball and is featured in the hit film *A League of Their Own*; Eleanor Lemaire, longtime athletic administrator at the University of Rhode Island; G. Gail Davis '60, legendary interscholastic coach and RIC Athletic Hall of Famer; Lois Testa-Lynch '57, Olympic shot putter and RIC Athletic Hall of Famer; Gail Davis, former associate athletic director at RIC and one of the College's first women's coaches; and Lauren Anderson, current URI senior associate athletic director and longtime track and field coach. These "pioneers" provided keen insight into their personal experiences in the growth of women's athletics, as well as their global views on women's intercollegiate athletics. Each of these women was presented with a proclamation from Lt. Gov. Roberts.

Following the panel discussion, Jessica Schiano '01, a former RIC basketball student-athlete and current radio personality at 92 PRO-FM, assumed the master of ceremonies duties for the recognition ceremony. Teams recognized included the 1980-81 women's basketball team, the 1981 women's volleyball team, the 1984 softball team, the 1984-85 and 1985-86 women's basketball teams and last year's World Series softball team.

Individual accomplishments recognized were the 1956 Olympic appearance of Lois Testa-Lynch '57, the record-setting free throw percentage by Jo-Ann D'Alessandro '88, the record-setting 1,677 points and 1,101 rebounds by Cathy Lanni '88, the vault national championship of gymnast Sue Paul, the 1,000 points scored in just two seasons by Claudia DeFaria '96, Caitlin Gavin's leading the nation in women's lacrosse goals-per-game average, and the consecutive NCAA softball winning streak by pitcher Nicole Riley.

Additionally, All-Americans Sajdah Ahmad, Amy Bright '00, Nicole Centazzo '98, Jenna Daum '98, Cathy Lanni '88, Jeanne (Berthasavage) Lucey '86, Annmarie Gower Marino '84, Sue Paul, Nicole Riley, and Kim (Smith) Rondeau '87 were honored. Each honoree received an award commemorating the evening, and the 2007 softball team received their World Series rings.

The evening ended with closing remarks from Charlie Wilkes '64, president of the Anchor Club, followed by a reception.



Claudia DeFaria '96 is a women's athletics honoree.

Anyone wishing to see additional photos from the event, or purchase photos, should visit: www.photograds.com or call (866) 572-0199.

ACROSS THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR’S DESK



BY DONALD E. TENCHER
Director of Athletics



- Over 225 people gathered in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate 30 years of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women at the College on Friday, Oct. 19. It was a fantastic evening that profiled how far women’s athletics has advanced over the past 30 years, though the work is far from done. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the athletic staff and most importantly, the committee whose efforts made this event a reality: Jo-Ann Avedisian ’80, M ’84, Meaghan Davis ’01, Jo-Ann D’Alessandro ’88, Claudia DeFaria ’96, G. Gail Davis ’60, Sharon (Hall) Galloway ’87, Kathleen Luther ’82, Cindy Neal, Ruth (Harnois) Plante ’84 and Jennifer Cook Spadoni ’00.
- The Gold Medal Choices Program, which, in cooperation with the NCAA, is the Athletic Department’s new initiative to educate the campus on making positive decisions regarding alcohol use, kicked off its campaign this week. The activities included a sign-up for students who are committed to making the right choices, an informational booth on the campus quad, and a speaker, Linda Chaves, who lost her son in an alcohol-related incident. WJAR-10 provided extensive coverage of the kick-off. More information regarding this important initiative will appear in future issues.
- Every intercollegiate fall team qualified for postseason play for the second consecutive year. Congratulations to all of the fall student-athletes on a job well done!

- The men’s basketball team opened its season Nov. 1 with a stunning 61-60 victory over Holy Cross, a team that is a preseason favorite to win the Patriot League. Junior guard Cameron Stewart made a layup with seven seconds left in regulation to lead RIC past the Division I powerhouse at the Hart Center in Worcester, Mass. RIC head coach Bob Walsh’s team showed everyone in attendance that this season will be another competitive one. Thanks to the many alumni and supporters who traveled to Worcester to see the Anchormen compete.
- Anchor Madness also took place last week with over 700 students in attendance and competing for the resident hall championship. Congratulations to winner Sweet Hall and thanks to all who supported this tribute to our winter student-athletes.
- Last, but by no means least, I have to make note of President Nazarian’s retirement announcement. When I arrived at RIC more than 12 years ago, there were many who knew us both and thought that there might be a conflict in our management styles. We soon found out that we were much more alike than different, and I found in President Nazarian the greatest of mentors. Though I still have many weaknesses, I have become a better administrator and a better person because of him. And because he was always willing to listen, the intercollegiate athletic program has gotten much better. Thank you President Nazarian for being a great leader, a great mentor, but most of all, a great friend. More to follow on this momentous announcement.

2007 Winter Athletics Schedule Nov. 10 – Dec. 15

MEN’S BASKETBALL				
Tues.	Nov. 20	at Bridgewater State		8 p.m.
Tues.	Nov. 27	at Fitchburg State		7 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 1	UMass Boston *		3 p.m.
Tues.	Dec. 4	Johnson & Wales		7:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Dec. 6	Salve Regina		7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 8	at Keene State *		3 p.m.
Tues.	Dec. 11	at Trinity		7:30 p.m.
Fri.	Dec. 14	at Springfield		7 p.m.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL				
Tues.	Nov. 20	at Bridgewater State		6 p.m.
Tues.	Nov. 27	Wellesley		7 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 1	UMass Boston *		1 p.m.
Tues.	Dec. 4	Johnson & Wales		5:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Dec. 6	Connecticut College		5:30 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 8	at Keene State *		1 p.m.
Tues.	Dec. 11	Wesleyan		7 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 15	at Westfield State		1 p.m.
WRESTLING				
Sat.	Nov. 10	at Roger Williams Invitational		10 a.m.
Wed.	Nov. 14	at M.I.T.		7 p.m.
Sat.	Nov. 17	at Doug Parker Invitational		10 a.m.
Wed.	Nov. 28	Plymouth State		6 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 1	at R.I.T. Invitational		9:30 a.m.
Fri.	Dec. 7	Wesleyan		7 p.m.
MEN’S & WOMEN’S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD				
Sat.	Dec. 1	at Northeastern Invitational		10 a.m.
Sat.	Dec. 8	at Harvard Invitational		11 a.m.
Home contests in bold				
* Little East Conference contest				
Log on to www.ric.edu/athletics for updated schedules and results.				

Correction



ROBERT HAIGH



DOUGLAS HARTLEY

In the Oct. 15 issue of *What’s News*, the photos of RIC Athletic Hall of Fame members Robert Haigh ’70 and Douglas Hartley ’72 were inadvertently transposed. Above is the corrected version.



The RIC student body came out in force to support the RIC winter sports teams at Anchor Madness in The Murray Center on Oct. 30.



Residence hall students put their dorm spirit on display at Anchor Madness.



Students had a chance to win a plush recliner provided by Cardi’s Furniture by making a free throw. The winner celebrates with the Anchorman and Ni-Ro-Pe.



Junior guard Bobby Bailey skies for a dunk during the men’s basketball team scrimmage.



An elephant family drinks from the watering hole cistern. Young elephants have a low trough for drinking.



Five volunteers of the Elephant Human Relations Aid conservation group are (left to right) Poppy Chenevix-Trench, Helen Newell, Laura Mundel, Mary Ball Howkins and Helen Goodsell-Johnson.



By Mary Ball Howkins
Professor of Art

My desire to find a way to personally aid endangered wild African elephants – intelligent, caring and playful giants – led me this summer to the lengthiest travel I have ever undertaken. Last winter, after responding to a brief announcement in the travel section of *The New York Times*, I arranged to join a small team of international volunteers in central Namibia, in southern Africa. We would gather in late July under the auspices of EHRA, Elephant Human Relations Aid, a small conservation group working to smooth over relations between small desert-adapted elephant herds and remote goat and cattle farmers in the Namibian bush.

We volunteers paid a nominal fee for two weeks of food, petrol for two jeeps, and building supplies for a wall we would build around an open metal construction that served as a windmill pumping water in the desert. That wall would serve to discourage elephants watering at the site from leaning or scratching against the vulnerable metal structure, and possibly destroying or putting it out of service. Water is scarce in any desert and a critical resource for both wild and domesticated animals as well as farmers. Our aim was to protect this particular water hole from accidental elephant damage that might incite farmers to want to destroy local elephant herds.

A trip to Namibia from New England is not an easy affair. A flight from Boston to New York took me to my international flight on South African Airways to Johannesburg, South Africa (known at the moment as the longest flight in the world: 18½ hours), where I spent the night before making a connecting flight to Walvis

Bay, Namibia, on that country’s central coast. From there I went by car to Swakopmund, an hour north, to join 12 other volunteers at a backpacker hostel. We were briefed by EHRA’s staff the night before setting out into the desert and told that we would be camping on the ground while working at the building site during the first week of our stay with them, and then on the ground as well during the second “patrol” week, during which we would track and observe several elephant groups in the region. Little did we realize then that every night we would camp in the middle of an elephant migration path, putting ourselves in close range of elephants as well as the other animals that used the same paths for locating water.

The next day we piled into two land cruiser jeeps and headed up the coast, then inland, a trip of about four hours, to the EHRA desert base camp. There we spent the night and loaded food and other supplies (bags of cement, four wheel barrows, shovels, spades, trowels and the like) for a week of wall building. We would get our drinking water from the ground at the windmill site, as did farmers and animals in that area.

Another 3½-hour trip through starkly beautiful mountainous desert, ultimately following narrow tracks and dry riverbeds, took us to our goal. To our excitement, immediately upon arrival at the waterhole we encountered

our first elephant herd, a group of five adult females and three calves, led by their matriarch to the large cement pool created for their use.

We stayed in our jeeps while the herd drank, bathed and then dust-bathed for about half an hour. We had strict rules to follow regarding our human behavior, mostly stillness and quiet, in order to avoid any threatening confrontation. Two adult elephants observed us at length, smelled our scent, and were clearly uneasy, perhaps because one of the adults was pregnant and therefore critical to the survival of the herd.

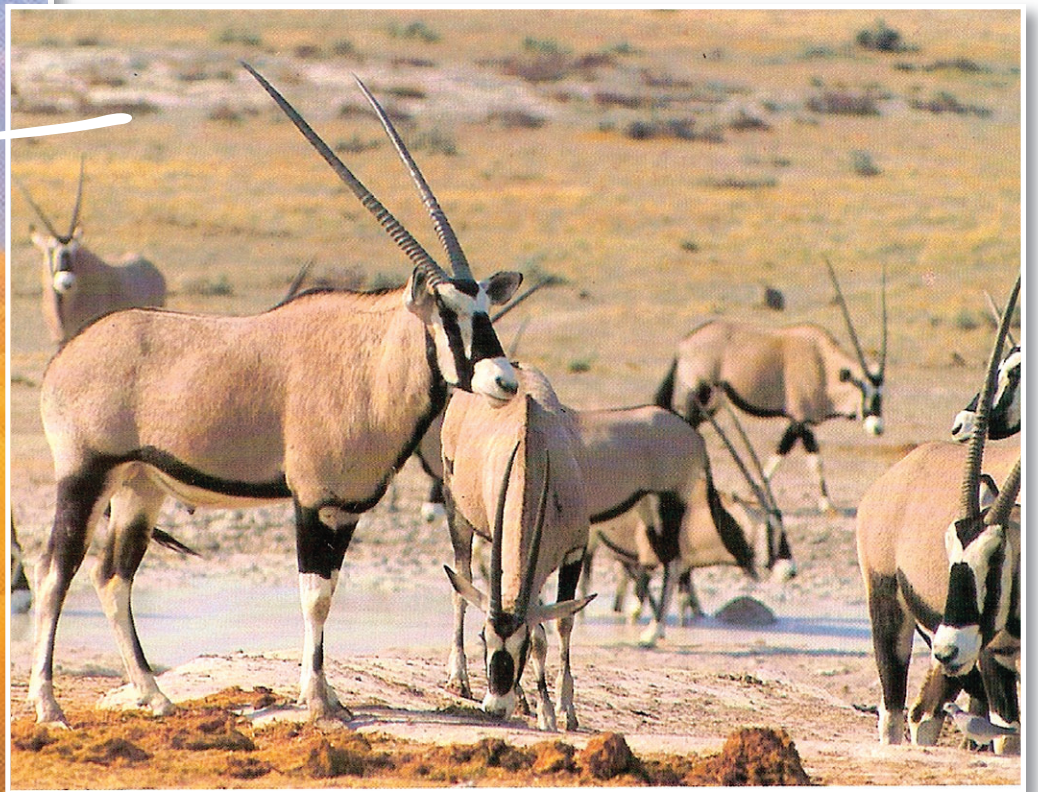
We would have many encounters, some even closer, in the days to come. Some of these were entirely unanticipated owing to the fact that elephants are completely silent, make no sounds while approaching or traveling, and can get within feet of humans without their realizing it.

Water is scarce in any desert and a critical resource for both wild and domesticated animals as well as farmers. Our aim was to protect this particular water hole from accidental elephant damage that might incite farmers to want to destroy local elephant herds.

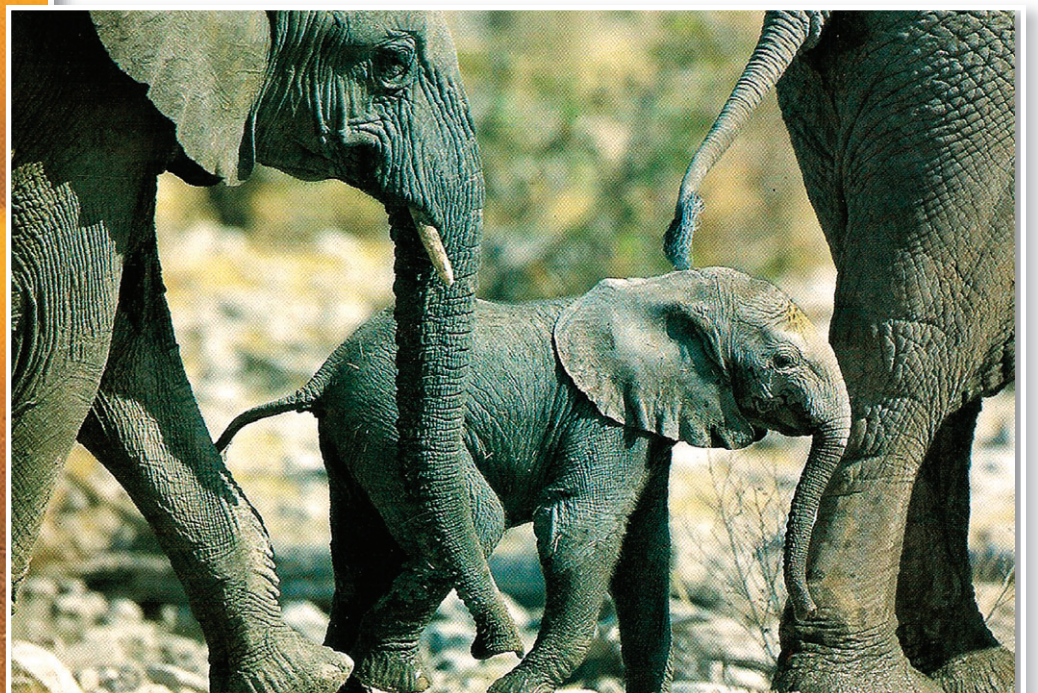
Wall building was exhausting work, and each volunteer claimed a job that he or she was suited for by strength or age. My jobs were “water girl” (filling endless buckets for mixing cement), supervisor and maintainer of the long drinking trough for small animals, including elephant calves, collector of small rocks to fill in between the large rocks of the five-foot high wall we were building, and ambassador to the occasional safari jeeps that came in search of elephants to view.



Sand dunes and wrecked ships line the Skeleton Coast of Namibia.



Small herds of oryx (antelope) in the vicinity were shy and quick to depart.



Female elephants keep a close eye on a newborn, dubbed "Hagar" by the conservationists.

Fortunately it was southern Africa's winter, so the days were temperate, while the nights were quite cold. I was glad to have brought my old down jacket for the campfire and cold mornings.

The first night of camping was an uneasy one for most of us volunteers since we were unsure of how exposed we were to animals, predators included. Generally we slept in a group between the two jeeps, with some brave ones close to the camp fire, while the EHRA guides slept alone on the outside of the vehicles near the front wheels. Over time we felt safe sleeping on the ground, but were always cautioned not to venture far to sleep or walk.

We cooked on an open fire, and each of us served in pairs for an entire day of cooking: coffee, tea and oatmeal for breakfast, sandwiches for lunch, and a stew of meat and vegetables (with chicken, springbok or oryx) for supper (a veggie version for vegetarians), usually ready by about 8, and cooked for at least two hours. The one tent we brought from base camp served to keep our food supplies and personal gear out of reach of the baboons that otherwise would have stolen or wrecked whatever they could get their hands on.

Our wall finished and celebrated by the next weekend, EHRA rewarded us with a lunch at a safari ecolodge, where we could swim in the pool. The opportunity to swim was a joy and relief since we had bathed with only baby wipes for a week, and would again for another week of patrol.

After refurbishing food supplies via a jeep sent out from base camp, we set out to observe elephant herds, first in the nearby vicinity, then after crossing an even more extreme desert region. We learned to read elephant tracks and

dung to determine the traveling direction of and proximity to various herds. This was our reward for our week of hard work: up at 6 a.m., at work by 7:30 until noon, lunch and rest until 2, then work again until 5-6 p.m. Patrol week meant long hours of jeep travel every day, and lots of excitement, but not the exhausting challenges of wall building we had encountered before.



Families of area goat and cattle herders get their water from this tank.

This area of desert was even more starkly beautiful, without any vegetation except for an occasional welwitschia tree, still alive after several thousand years of exceedingly slow growth. A few ostrich and oryx seemed to survive there. We then entered a long series of narrow canyons, following the dry Ugab riverbed for two days, a rugged terrain that endlessly challenged the jeep drivers for control of their vehicles. There we encountered several linear oases, two of which we had to wade through in bare feet to keep the jeeps from sinking and getting stuck. We encountered giraffe, two merging elephant herds, and tried to keep a lion's tracks and leftover meals out of our minds while camping in the narrow canyon passageway.

Since I sat in the front of the second jeep, with no door to protect me from vegetation, I was constantly covered with debris in the oases, and showered with salt from the surface of the tamarisk bushes growing in the riverbed.

Our encounters with elephants were breathtaking. As long as we were silent and still, and within the open structure of the jeeps or quietly camping, they went about their business just feet away: caring for newborns, napping and snoring under a tree, whipping our work supplies about in the air, drinking and bathing, or ripping branches off of their favorite mopane trees for meals.

Poaching in central Namibia is an unusual occurrence, so these creatures, while clearly curious about our presence, were not afraid to go on with their lives with us observing from close range. Our main guide and the founder of EHRA, Johannes Haasbroek (online at desertelephant.org), was an encyclopedia of information about elephant behavior, tracking and conservation. If you would like to learn about and aid these giants, and can embrace rugged living for a couple of weeks, Johannes is the man to follow.

International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) like EHRA are myriad. There are opportunities to help animal researchers and conservation workers all over the world, as well as to aid orphanages, clinics, villages and farmers on almost every continent. Many of the travelers I met on route were in Africa to do just that kind of work for no remuneration. They were doctors, students, religious relief workers, club members – persons from diverse backgrounds, all with a desire to help in some small and relevant way.



Anne Leone. *Two Swimmers, No. 3*, 2006. Acrylic on linen, 60" x 36".

Figuring the Figure at Bannister this month

The figure has been preeminent throughout art history. Even during art history's most abstract moments, the figure has never entirely left the minds of artists. It has been argued that Jackson Pollock's drip paintings carried a sense of the body as they made reference to the physical movements involved in their creation.

Bannister Gallery is taking a fresh look at the figurative tradition when it presents the work of Anne Leone and Daniel Ludwig in their exhibit *Figuring the Figure*, on display through Nov. 30.

Anne Leone's contextualized compositions bridge her conceptual ideas with "real" personal intentions. There exists an ambiguity in her paintings that can be viewed as unsettling yet captivating. Using water metaphorically to investigate states of being, the painter places the figure at the center of the dialogue, creating eloquent and moving "representational" examinations of isolation, serenity, confidence, fear, distress or joy.

The work of master painter and sculptor Daniel Ludwig is sensuous in its tonality and resonates with aesthetic references to the rich surfaces and palette of the Renaissance. The figures in his paintings are posed in positions and situations that reflect the time-honored practices of the Renaissance, yet there exists a distinct consciousness of our time and place in his compositions.

Leone and Ludwig are both art educators who have exhibited widely. Until his retirement, Daniel Ludwig taught for many years at Salve Regina University; Anne Leone is currently a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Also on display, in the Hall Space Gallery, will be works by Astrid. This painter/printmaker's expressive style is brought forth in a series of bold portraits.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon to 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and open to the public. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at www.ric.edu/Bannister/ or call (401) 456-9765.

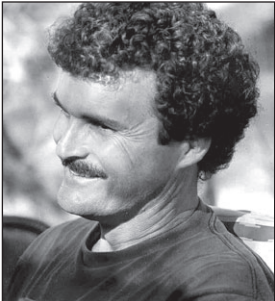


Astrid. *Unknown Portrait*, 2007. Sumi ink on paper.

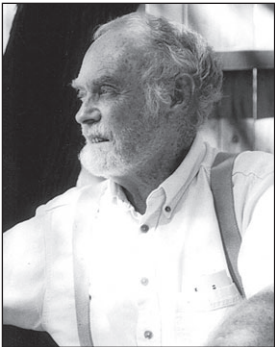
Prison writings featured in Bannister reading Nov. 15

Poet Richard Shelton and essayist Ken Lamberton will present a joint reading in support of their new books on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. in Bannister Gallery.

Shelton, a nationally known poet and author of the award winning *Going Back to Bisbee*, began the Arizona Prison Writing Workshop in 1974 at Arizona State Prison. In the 33 years since its inception, the workshop has continued and spawned others like it in other prisons. Shelton chronicles the journey of his creation of and involvement with the prison writing workshops in his new book *Crossing the Yard* from the University of Arizona Press.



KEN LAMBERTON



RICHARD SHELTON

Lamberton, once a member of Shelton's workshop, is primarily a naturalist. His new book, *Time of Grace*, is also being released by the University of Arizona Press. Lamberton's essays cover not only his observations of the natural world, but meditations on family and the politics of crime and punishment. Lamberton served 12 years in Arizona prisons for an affair with an underage student.

The reading is open to the public, free of charge. There will be refreshments, and books will be available for sale and signing.

For more information, contact Thomas Cobb at (401) 456-8115 or tcobb@ric.edu.

Winter Choral Concert mixes classical, holiday music Dec. 7

The annual RIC Winter Choral Concert will feature four vocal groups – the RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers, and Women's and Men's Choruses – performing in the Nazarian Center's Sapinsley Hall on Friday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m.

The concert will feature a blend of classical music and favorite holiday songs.

The highlight piece, *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine*, is an interpretation by composer Eric Whitacre of what Leonardo Da Vinci's feelings were when he was making his flying machine. Motets by Anton Bruckner, *Locus iste*, *Os justi* and *Christus factus est*, will also be performed.

The RIC choral groups do numerous shows as separate entities at the College and in the local community. The choral program is led by Teresa Coffman, who said the groups are "really close and get along really well."

The Winter Choral Concert

will be the first of four major concerts that the four choral groups will participate in this season. Next year, they will perform at RIC on March 7 under the leadership of composer Alice Parker, on April 28 with the RIC Symphony, and on May 7 in their "bon voyage" concert.

The May concert is not only a farewell salute to graduating seniors but also the final concert before the groups embark on their international choral tour, a tradition since 2002.

This summer, the tour will include performances in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. To fund the trip, students raise money through group or personal fundraisers, concerts in the community and donations from area churches where the choral groups perform. This season, 39 RIC students will be participating in the international tour.

Admission to the Winter Choral Concert is \$4. For more information, call (401) 456-8144.



This print, by Professor Stephen Fisher, will be available at the RIC Art Auction on Dec. 7

Art Auction Dec. 7

RIC's 35th annual Art Auction will take place on Friday, Dec. 7, in Bannister Gallery. Previews start at 4 p.m., followed by the auction at 7 p.m. The auctioneer will be Channel 10 chief meteorologist Gary Ley.

Alumni and friends of the College are encouraged to donate works of art for bid at the event, which helps fund student activities.

To arrange for donations, please call the Art Department office at (401) 456-8054. Deadline for drop-offs is Wednesday, Nov. 28.

New York System, like you’ve never experienced

By Ray Ragosta
Staff Writer

The words “New York System” invoke extremes. For some, the diminutive hot dogs are a gastronomical delight, and for others, a digestive nightmare. In either case, they connote something uniquely Rhode Island.

That connotation is one of the reasons that Alan Shockley, adjunct professor of music at Rhode Island College, decided to name the College’s newest musical group New York System. The ensemble specializes in playing contemporary avant-garde music and will give its first full concert on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. They performed briefly in the College’s Collage Concert on Oct. 26 for their initial public appearance.

But there is another connection, which goes directly to the heart of the matter: the New York School, which throughout the 50s and 60s served as an umbrella for American avant-garde art.

While a good number of people are familiar with painters such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, fewer would recognize the school’s principal composers with whom the artists kept company: John Cage, Earle Brown, Morton Feldman and Christian Wolff.

Cage is probably the best known, particularly for his composition 4’33”, whose premiere consisted of pianist David Tudor sitting at a piano for the title’s duration without playing a note.

That, too, is extreme, but it is part of the picture. By exploring the unpredictability of ambient sounds in the concert hall, Cage was opening new contexts for how and what we listen to.

“Avant-garde music,” Shockley explained, “pushes the envelope and challenges, at least at some level, the listener and the performer. It asks how we define music, what are good sounds, what is form?”

“It involves writing for traditional instruments but having to re-think the palette of sounds. For instance, audiences are surprised to see a pianist digging around inside the instrument.”

New York System, an ensemble composed entirely of students, was conceived when Shockley was teaching a seminar in recent American art music.

“I found that students needed to experience the music, which uses different notational styles and new ways to play instruments,” he said.

So, Shockley put together a group based on the standard instrumentation for performing new music: flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano, along with percussion.

Concerning this instrumentation, Shockley noted, “It is based on the ensemble created to play *Pierrot Lunaire* [an early and influential 20th-century experimental work by Arnold Schoenberg]. Percussion, though, was not part of the original group. We also have a second flute and second violin, who will probably play alternately.”

“The Fires of London,” he added referring to a well-known avant-garde



Members of New York System include, from left, Kathleen Waters, Amanda Shuman, Morgan Santos, Dustin Patrick, Gabrielle Scheff, Caitlin Craig, Elizabeth Codd, Richard Anatone and Alan Shockley.

ensemble lasting from 1965 to 1987, “had that kind of configuration and was originally called the Pierrot Players.”

While the program for the December concert has not been finalized, some likely candidates for the concert predict an interesting mix of the “classic” and recent avant-garde.

Among the classics are pieces from Christian Wolff’s series *Exercises*, in particular those for indeterminate instruments, and Morton Feldman’s *For Aaron Copland*, a solo violin work.

There is also (*Hartford*) *Memory Space* by Alvin Lucier – who was a member of another noted avant-garde formation, the Sonic Arts Union. *Memory Space* is a piece whose title changes depending on where it is performed.

Among the works by more recent composers are *Minim* by Barbara White, who was one of Shockley’s teachers at Princeton, and *Bagatelles* by James Bohn, also an adjunct in music at the College.

“All these pieces have stories about how and why they were composed,” Shockley remarked, “so I will make some comments before we perform them. That will help the audience to understand the works and hopefully help build a following for the music.”

How are the students reacting?

“Most are really excited about the repertoire,” said Shockley, “but the jury is still out on some.”

“This is a unique group for the College and for area, and we hope to take it off campus.”

New York System will be a welcome addition to the state’s music scene. The last Rhode Island group to specialize in contemporary experimental music disbanded in the 80s after more than 20 years of performing. That was the Providence New Music Ensemble, which had a number of RIC connections.

For instance, one of its directors, George Goneconto, was a former adjunct music professor at the College; Professor Emeritus of Music Philip McClintock was a regular wind player. Current faculty members and pianists Judith Lynn Stillman and Stephen Martorella were guest soloists with the group, as well as alumna soprano Diane Alexander.

When he is not directing New York System or teaching, Alan Shockley is a composer himself and holds advanced degrees in composition from Ohio State and Princeton.

A 2005 composition of his, *candlepin-bowling-deadwood*, was premiered at Paolo Soleri’s Arcosanti by the California EAR Unit, one of the country’s prominent contemporary music ensembles. The pianist for the group was so impressed with the piece that she commissioned another work from Shockley.

Just this October, his first collaboration

with a painter opened at vertexList space in New York. The piece involves a kind of umbilical relationship between the visual and music components.

The painter, Brice Brown, executed a work consisting of 88 panels, 12-inches square, each of which corresponded to a series of sounds in Shockley’s score. When a panel was sold and removed from the work, the corresponding sounds were also removed for the score, reducing both components simultaneously.

In addition, Shockley is working on a book slated for publication late in 2008 by Ashgate Press in the U.K. The book grew out of his dissertation research and analyzes various modernist novels written in English in which the authors make overt attempts at musicalized writing, as in James Joyce’s works.

But when Shockley is not composing or writing, he is blacksmithing. He has his own anvil and forge, and admits that this “has nothing to do with music.”

Except at least once. Shockley had received a travel grant from Princeton to do some blacksmithing, even though he was honest on his application about the dubious professional connections.

He made some triangles during the grant period, and as it turned out, another composer decided to use them in a composition.

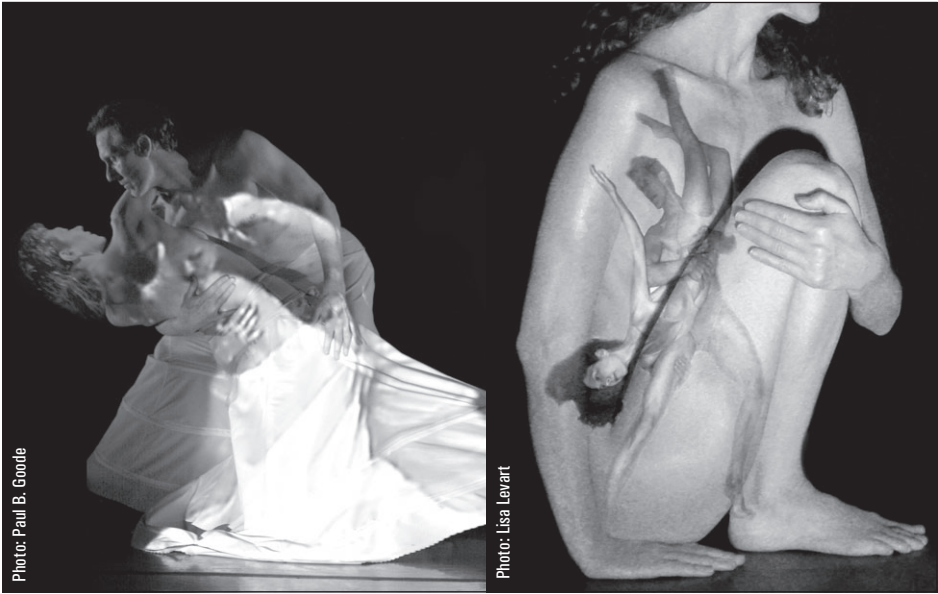
This, one might interpolate, just reinforces the idea that unpredictability is a hallmark of avant-garde music.

Admission to the New York System’s inaugural concert is free, and those interested in seeing what the group is up to can visit its website at newyorksystem.pbwiki.com.

Free-admission

.....EVENTS.....

- The final concert in the Wednesday Chamber Music Series’ four-part program, “Bach to Blues,” will feature William Anderson and Oren Fader in a 50-minute recital on Nov. 21 at 1 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. The duo-guitarists, members of the award-winning music ensemble Cygnus, have been described as “electrifying” by Allan Kozinn of *The New York Times*. A question-and-answer session with the artists will follow the performance.
- John Sumerlin will conduct the RIC Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Ensembles in a performance on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.
- The RIC Concert Jazz Band, directed by Joseph Foley, will perform on Monday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.



BRIDGMAN/PACKER DANCE

Bridgman/Packer to share stage with RIC Dance Company Nov. 30

The RIC Dance Company and Bridgman/Packer Dance will premiere a dance/video work in a shared concert on Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. The work is the result of a collaboration between the two companies on an eight-day choreographic and video residency this month.

Also, Bridgman/Packer Dance will be joined by a videographer, composer and musicians to perform an abridged version of its breakthrough dance and video trilogy *Seductive Reasoning, Under the Skin, Memory Bank*. The critically acclaimed work explores new ground in the interaction and interweaving of dance and video to disrupt and to inform our understanding of the unified and predictable human and his/her partnering tendencies.

The dance company has previously hosted residency/performance projects with Bridgman/Packer in 2002, 1994 and 1984, and hosted a choreographic residency project in 1992.

Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer create work around the dilemma of finding meaning and connections in a time and world where everything seems to be

transient and at risk. Their exploration of the duet form nearly exhausts the possibilities for partnering, pairing and coupling – with all of the inherent pros and cons of this enduring and endlessly persistent human preoccupation. Elizabeth Zimmer of *The Village Voice* has written, “Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer have raised the duet to a pinnacle of clarity and craft.”

The critically acclaimed work explores new ground in the interaction and interweaving of dance and video...

Bridgman and Packer are determined humanists in a contemporary dance scene that can often seem preoccupied with form. Their work since the turn of the century has had a decidedly interdisciplinary focus, and they consistently attract significant music and video artists for collaborative projects.

The Bridgman/Packer Dance residency/performance project at RIC was funded in part by a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts Expeditions program with support from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program, the six New England state arts agencies, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Argosy Foundation.

General admission is \$12, with discounts for seniors, groups and students.

Salzburg Marionette Theatre to perform Dec. 3

Rhode Island College welcomes the Salzburg Marionette Theatre in a Performing Arts Series presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s classic *The Sound of Music* on Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

The show is based on the Broadway original, which shared a Tony Award with *Fiorello!* for Best Musical in 1959. It chronicles the life of widower Georg Ritter von Trapp, naval captain and Austrian patriot, his quest for a new love, and his family’s escape from the Nazis into Switzerland on the eve of WWII.

Founded in 1913, the Salzburg Marionette Theatre has cast its spell on audiences everywhere with entrancing presentations of renowned operas, magical fairy tales and elaborate ballets. With 12 full-time puppeteers on board, they perform across the globe, including

visits to Argentina, Canada, England, Greece, Italy, Japan and many major cities across the United States.

“Watching the marionettes evoked a complex, dynamic pleasure,” praised the *Los Angeles Times*. “Unhampered by gravity, the

marionettes can offer more stage action than human singing actors do, and so enhance the hair-trigger emotions of the characters.”

Tickets for the Salzburg Marionette Theatre are \$35, with discounts for seniors, RIC students/faculty/staff/alumni, and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via Visa or MasterCard by calling (401) 456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, or by fax at (401) 456-8269; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or in person at the Roberts Hall Box Office, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.



RIC Theatre Organization’s Growing Stage to perform *Never the Sinner*

From Thursday, Dec. 13, to Sunday, Dec. 16, Rhode Island College’s Growing Stage, a theatre run entirely by undergraduate and graduate students, will present the Off-Broadway hit *Never the Sinner* by John Logan. Show times are 8 p.m. Dec. 13-15, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 16, at the Little Theatre in the Nazarian Center.

Directed by Laura Barlow, a student in RIC’s MFA theatre program, the play centers around a notorious 1920s murder case involving two young men (Leopold and Loeb) after their failed attempt to commit a “perfect crime,” one in which there is no fear of being apprehended. It unfolds into a compelling story of intellect, American views on capital punishment, and the effect the media can

have on murder trials. “According to Amnesty International, 53 U.S. prisoners were executed in 2006,” said Barlow. “We want to make people more aware of the issue of capital punishment.

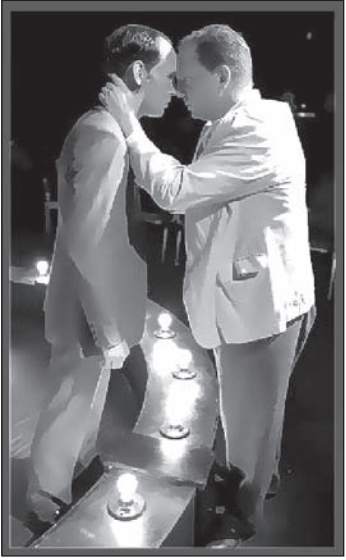
The play is just as relevant today as it was in 1924.”

Cast members include Stephen J. Gaskin, Jr., Adriano Cabral, Ashley Dougan, Matt Dionisopoulos, Christopher Papa, Sharon Corriveau, Caitlyn Knoll and Katherine Coolidge.

Assisting in the production are

Jessica Derouin (stage manager), Patrick Keister (assistant stage manager), Ranees Csigay (visual designer) and Kimberly Maida (costume designer).

Admission is free and open to the public (donations will be accepted).



Never the Sinner



Muir String Quartet returns to RIC Nov. 19

The popular Muir String Quartet returns to Rhode Island College for a 15th season as part of the Performing Arts Series. The classical quartet will perform on Monday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall. It is the first of three appearances by Muir at the College during the 2007-08 season.

The concert will include Haydn’s String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77, No. 1; Tower’s String Quartet No. 3, *Incandescent*; and Shubert’s String Quartet in D Minor, D. 108, *Death and the Maiden*.

The ensemble is celebrating its 29th anniversary this season, and 24th year as Quartet in Residence at Boston University School of Music.

Muir appears annually in major chamber music series throughout North America and Europe. It has recently premiered works by American composers Richard Danielpour (*Feast of Fools* – for Bassoon and String Quartet), Lucas Foss (String Quartet No. 4), Ezra Laderman (String Quartet No. 9), and Joelle Wallach (String Quartet No. 3).

The quartet features “impeccable voicing and intonation,” according to the *San Francisco Examiner*. The *New York Times* reported that Muir has “the sound, interpretive depth, and polish to rival the best in the world.”

Muir returns to RIC on Feb. 4, 2008, and March 31, 2008.

Tickets for the Muir String Quartet are \$35, with discounts for seniors, RIC faculty/staff/students/alumni, and children. For your convenience, tickets can be purchased as follows: in advance via Visa or MasterCard by calling (401) 456-8144 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; online at www.ric.edu/pfa; or at the box office lobby of the appropriate performance venue, which will be open for sales two hours prior to performance start time.

RIC Symphony takes a “trip,” performs psychedelic symphony

By Edward Markward
RIC Symphony Orchestra
Conductor

Next Month, the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra will perform what the late conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein described as the “first psychedelic symphony in history.” *Symphonie Fantastique*, along with several other French works, will be on the concert bill on Monday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall.

Symphonie Fantastique was written by 24-year-old Hector Berlioz in 1830 – only three years after the death of Beethoven and over 130 years before the arrival of the Beatles. It is a work that is “fantastic” in every way, as it describes the dreams – or nightmares – of a young, lovesick poet who takes a dose of opium to kill himself, but instead takes only enough to produce a highly descriptive “trip.” The work is, of course, autobiographical.

The symphony is a study in futuristic orchestration, fantasy effects, descriptive writing and melodic invention. And, it’s the first truly programmatic work in that each of its five movements represents a scene described in detail by the composer himself.

The movements are connected by a single melody that represents the beloved: the idee fixe or fixed idea. No matter where the poet finds himself, he cannot rid himself of the agonizing obsession with his beloved. She finds him and torments him in each of the five movements: “Reveries/Passions,” “A Ball,” “Scene in the Country,” “March to the Scaffold,” and “The Witches’ Sabbath.” In this last movement, the Witches’ Round Dance, based on the idee fixe, is combined with the *Dies Irae* from the Mass for the Dead in a rousing brass-filled finale.

Joining the Symphony Orchestra

as soloist will be baritone Tianxu Zhou, a native of Beijing, China and



TIANXU ZHOU

Maurice Ravel’s *Don Quichotte A Dulcinee*. The three songs, after poems by Paul Morand, are among Ravel’s last compositions and were written for a movie that was to have starred the great Russian bass, Feodor Chaliapin. The movie, incidentally, was never made.

Zhou previously conducted the Loudoun Chorale in Virginia. As a singer, he has performed numerous operas with the Washington National Opera under the direction of Placido Domingo and with opera companies here and abroad, working with notables such as Jose Carreras, Sherrill Milnes and Denise Graves.

He has also appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. Recently, he has performed with the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra and the RIC Chorus.

Opening the concert program will be Ravel’s touching *Ma Mere L’Oye, (Mother Goose) Five Pieces for Children*. Ravel – as much the master orchestrator in the 20th century as Berlioz was in the early 19th – originally wrote the work for piano four hands, then orchestrated it as a ballet. The Symphony Orchestra will perform the suite based on the original four-hand version.

General Admission is \$7; seniors and non-RIC students, \$5; RIC students, faculty and staff, free. Call (401) 456-8144 for more information.

members of the music faculty at RIC, where he teaches voice and conducts the Men’s Chorus.

Zhou will perform



By Nick Lima ’10
Staff Writer

RIC Wind Ensemble to present *La Fiesta*

The Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble will perform *La Fiesta* on Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall. Conductor Rob Franzblau, director of bands at RIC, will lead the 62-member group, consisting mostly of RIC students, in their second major performance of the year.

“If you’ve never been to a concert by the RIC Wind Ensemble, or it has been a long time, you will be pleasantly surprised and will enjoy yourself,” Franzblau said of *La Fiesta*. “All of the pieces in this concert have a common celebratory feel to them, featuring music of different styles, times and cultures.”

H. Owen Reed’s *La Fiesta Mexicana* forms the signature piece of the concert, featuring three large movements that capture very distinctive moods. Reed developed the piece while on a research grant to study the culture and folk music of Mexico.

“‘Prelude and Aztec Dance,’ the first movement, is powerful, epic, raw, and violent at times,” Franzblau said. “The second movement, ‘Mass,’ has a very religious, contemplating, and stirring tone, contrasted by the final ‘Carnival,’ which is happy, full of energy and exuberance.”

Four other pieces will be played by the Wind Ensemble, including Joaquín Rodrigo’s *Adagio Para Orquesta de Instrumentos de Viento*. “It’s very Spanish in flavor, consisting of many moods bordering from contemplative to militaristic – bullfight music, in essence,” Franzblau said.

A very recent piece, *Radiant Joy* by Steven Bryant, features more of a jazz influence, while Andrew Boysen’s *Kirkpatrick Fanfare* brings a happy, fun, Irish feeling to the concert.

Another selection, *Nature’s Way* by Gunther Schuller, will be performed in preparation for Schuller’s scheduled appearance as guest conductor of the ensemble in February. “A world class musician,” according to Franzblau, Schuller holds numerous esteemed awards for his work.

For Franzblau, the purpose of music such as that featured by the RIC Wind Ensemble in *La Fiesta* is to make listeners feel something. “Different people will interpret what they hear in different ways. Hopefully audiences will be inspired and struck with feelings that can’t be put into words. That’s what the arts are all about – communicating what can’t be put into words.”

The RIC Wind Ensemble, which has been in existence for more than 30 years, is one of the major performing groups at the College.

General admission is \$7; seniors and non-RIC students, \$5; RIC students, faculty and staff, free.

R.I. Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles to play at RIC

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles – featuring some of the most talented high school musicians in the state – will perform in the Nazarian Center’s Sapinsley Hall at 7:30 p.m.

David Martins, a clarinetist in the R.I. Philharmonic, will conduct the Senior Wind Ensemble, while Marc Blanchette, the band director at Mt. St. Charles Academy, will lead the junior group.

Rob Franzblau, associate professor of music at RIC, will conduct two pieces with the RIC Wind Ensemble as part of this joint performance, including Andrew Boysen’s *Kirkpatrick Fanfare* and a selection from H. Owen Reed’s *La Fiesta Mexicana*, both of which will be featured at the RIC Wind Ensemble’s *La Fiesta* concert on Nov. 30.

“This is a great opportunity for talented high school students to get to hear the RIC Wind Ensemble,” Franzblau said, “especially if the young musicians are planning on studying music in college. The concert provides a great recruiting tool for Rhode Island College, and the Youth Wind Ensemble enjoys playing in our facility – a win-win for everyone.”

The Youth Wind Ensemble, founded in 2002, gives talented high school students a challenge beyond what they would get in their regular programs, Franzblau said. This November’s concert marks the fourth year that the R.I. Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensemble and the RIC Wind Ensemble have shared the stage at RIC.

General admission, \$10; seniors and non-RIC students, \$5; RIC students, faculty and staff, free.



A U.S. Marine Band harpist prepares for a performance by the band before a full house in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall on Oct. 31.

FOCUS ON Faculty & Staff

Khalil Saucier, assistant professor of sociology, has co-authored (with Professor Richard Lobban) *Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Cape Verde*, 4th edition, (Scarecrow Press, 2007). Saucier is also the sole author of two book chapters: “Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam” in *The Long Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1973*, edited by Brian Johnson and Zoe Trodd (Manly Inc, 2007); and “Race and Ethnic Relations” in *Teaching Race and Ethnic Relations: Syllabi and Instruction Manuals*, edited by D. Cunnigan (American Sociological Association, 2007). He recently presented “A Luta Continua! Hip Hop Crioulo (Amílcar Cabral Remix)” at the African and African American Popular Culture Conference at Plymouth State University in October.



DIANNE HULING

Dianne Huling M '87, greenhouse manager, gave a presentation to the Association of Education and Research Greenhouse Curators, of which she is a member, at the association’s convention last August. The title of her talk was “The Plant Information Notebook: An Aid to Education in the Biology Department Laboratory.” The convention was sponsored by the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Conn. Huling’s photograph of Artists Painting the Fells, a rock garden, at the Hay Estate in Newbury, N.H., was featured on the rear cover of the Summer 2007 edition of *The Quarterly*, an international publication of the North American Rock Garden Society. Her photograph placed in class 4: Rock Garden Scene for Honorable Mention in the fall 2006 North American Rock Garden Society photography contest.



PETE BROWN

Pete Brown, professor of history, is co-editor of the recently published, two-volume *Festschrift for Richard Hellie*. Hellie, of the Department of History at the University of Chicago, is the doyen of early Eastern Slavic and early Russian studies in North America and Europe. The *Festschrift* consists of 36 articles, contributed by U.S. and foreign scholars. Brown’s responsibilities consisted of editing for content, style, and citational consistency the articles’ wide range of subject matter (archeology, law, economics, gender studies, literature, art, linguistics, foreign relations, politics, military studies), for 1,400 years of Eastern Slavic and Russian civilization and history, covering the pre-Kievan, Kievan Rus’, Appanage, Muscovite, Imperial Russian and Soviet periods. Included is Brown’s article, “Towards a Psychohistory of Peter the Great: Trauma, Modeling and Coping in Peter’s Personality.”

In May he gave a paper at The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, “The Strategic Dilemmas of Seventeenth-Century Eastern European Warfare.” It examined how disease, poverty, communications, transportation, illiteracy, political authoritarianism, agriculture, monetary supply, and lack of mediating international organizations affected warfare conducted by Russia, Poland-Lithuania, Ukraine, Sweden and the Crimean Khanate.

In mid-November he will present, at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in New Orleans, for a panel on newer perspectives on Russian serfdom, a paper entitled “Serfs and Lords: Their Symbiosis with Population Growth, Army Size, Warfare, and Elite Consumption from the 1620s to the 1850s.” He will also be a commentator for the panel “Novgorod in Focus I: Socio-Historical Perspective” that will examine ethno-migrational, linguistic and

historiographical controversies about this important Northwestern Russian town, 9th-15th centuries.



JIM BARTON

Jim Barton, professor of elementary education, recently published the article “They Want To Learn How To Think: Using Art to Enhance Comprehension” in the November issue of the National Council of Teachers of English journal, *Language Arts*. Barton’s co-authors are Donna Sawyer, an elementary teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in Pawtucket, and Cindy Swanson, an art instructor at Quinabaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn.



PAMELA IRVING JACKSON

Pamela Irving Jackson, professor of sociology and director of the Justice Studies Program, was a visiting scholar in July at *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik* (SWP, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs) in Berlin, Germany. Responding to an invitation from Andreas Maurer, head of SWP’s EU Integration Unit, she worked with researchers on the implications of the securitization of immigration policy for minority integration. She completed three papers (two with Roderick Parkes) on the determinants of the development of parallel societies on the part of Muslim communities in western post-industrial nations and the criminalization of Muslim populations.

Extensive discussions with SWP senior researchers involved her in their work on circular migration and the preservation of the rights of national minorities in EU governance. Senior researchers with whom she met included Steffen Angenendt, a member of the 2004 German government council of experts on immigration and integration, responsible for the government policy initiative, *Structuring Immigration, Fostering Integration*; and Sabine Riedel, a specialist on Muslim communities in France, Germany and Britain.

Additional meetings with researchers Henriette Rytz and Daniela Kietz provided understanding of the European perspective on U.S. border control with Mexico, and the implications of the *Prum* treaty for the impact of European Justice and Home Affairs policies on minorities within the European Union. Frequent and often informal discussions with groups of researchers at SWP yielded insight into related developments while Jackson was there, including the German Integration Summit and new immigration/integration legislation.

When she returned to the United States in August, Jackson presented two papers (co-authored with Roderick Parkes) at national conferences: one at the American Sociological Association meeting’s session on “Religion and Politics in Comparative and Historical Perspective,” organized by Philip Gorski of Yale University; and the second at the Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting’s session on “The Integration of Muslims in Western Democracies,” organized by Jackson and including four papers by U.S. scholars. Jackson has two publications in the Fall/Winter 2008 special issue of the *Journal of Social and Ecological Boundaries* devoted to Muslim Integration in Postindustrial Democracies: “Parallel Societies, Cultural Tolerance and Securitization: Muslims and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Western Democracies” (co-authored with Roderick Parkes), and “Muslim Integration in Postindustrial Democracies: Representation and Assimilation,” the introduction to the special journal issue. She was invited to organize and serve as lead co-editor of the issue.

Nazarian cont. University. At RIC, he was promoted to assistant professor in 1958, associate professor in 1967, and full professor in 1971.

Prior to attaining full professorship, Nazarian was appointed acting chair of the mathematics department and named the College’s first associate dean of arts and sciences. In 1972, he was named special assistant to the president for planning, by President Charles Willard, holding that position throughout the Willard presidency.

Always concerned with detail and keenly interested in finances, he took on the role of vice president for administrative services in 1977, then vice president for administration and finance in 1981, where he successfully guided the College through the many fiscal challenges.

Following the untimely death of President David E. Sweet in September of 1984, Nazarian was named acting president and served in that capacity for two years before Hartford University provost Carol Guardo was named president. Nazarian continued serving as vice president.

When Guardo resigned in January 1990, Nazarian was again called upon by the state’s Board of Governors for Higher Education to serve as acting president. He served in this capacity until May of that year when the Board selected him as the College’s eighth president.

In 2000, then Governor Lincoln Almond, along with the R.I. General Assembly, and Board of Governors for Higher Education, recognized Nazarian’s many contributions to higher education and to RIC by naming the College’s newly completed Center for the Performing Arts in his honor, a recognition of Nazarian’s talents as a professional musician with an abiding interest in music and the performing arts.

Born and raised in Pawtucket and one of 11 children, Nazarian had all intentions of becoming a concert violinist but changed his career path when he auditioned for a full scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music. He came in third, receiving only a letter of honorable mention. Not able to afford the tuition on his own, he turned to his second love – mathematics – and decided to become a teacher, thus interviewing for admission to RICE.

Little did he know that the school that accepted and educated him would become his lifelong passion, and that he would dedicate his career and much of his personal life to making it one of the state’s most prestigious places of higher education.

Nor did the young John Nazarian ever dream that he would one day lead that same institution.

Graves' TESL workshops draw local educators to RIC

By Lauren Mesale '06
Staff Writer

From Oct. 11-13, RIC hosted a series of workshops headlined by nationally recognized speaker Michael Graves, a leading scholar in helping educators become more effective teachers of vocabulary. The series was sponsored by the reading and TESL graduate programs of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

Graves is a professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, and author of *The Vocabulary Book: Learning & Instruction*.

Nancy Cloud, professor of secondary education at the College, coordinated the program. The goal, she said, was to help local reading and literacy specialists and coaches to benefit from the expertise of Graves, who is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame, which advocates for further improvement in reading instruction.

"We had over 150 people attend; it was a big hit with ESL teachers in the region, kindergarten to adult," said Cloud.

The Oct. 11 workshop, titled "Vocabulary Instruction for Middle and Secondary Students," provided literacy teachers and coaches with the opportunity to network with other professionals in the field, and to learn about vocabulary instruction and comprehension strategies.

"Vocabulary knowledge is one of the best indicators of verbal ability [in students]," Graves said.

According to Graves, the average high school graduate knows 50,000 words; this translates into learning about 10 words a day.

He said, however, that some students face serious vocabulary deficits. Graves gave the example that children who live in poverty begin school with vocabularies half the size of their middle-class counterparts. The same problem can occur with

English language learners.

Graves has devised a four-pronged vocabulary program to assist a wide range of students in building strong vocabularies. It consists of frequent, varied and extensive language experiences; teaching individual words; teaching word-learning strategies; and fostering word consciousness.

Frequent, varied and extensive language experiences are often interactive, as they can be applied to areas of reading, writing, listening and discussion.

Graves also said that there are several important parts of teaching individual words, including learning new labels for known concepts, words representing new concepts, new meanings for known words, and clarifying meanings of known words.

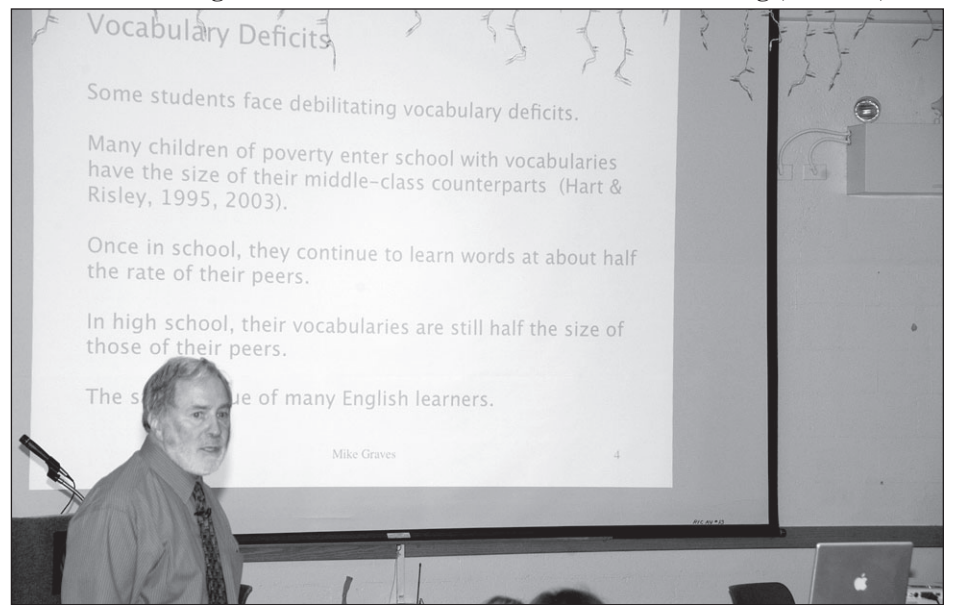
Teaching students word-learning strategies entails using context, learning and using word parts, using the dictionary and using cognates (for English language learners), said Graves.

"Context is definitely the most important word-learning strategy to teach," he said.

Graves noted that fostering word consciousness – an awareness of words and their meanings – is vital at all grade levels. To help teach students to celebrate words, he suggested several word consciousness activities: creating a word-rich classroom environment, promoting adept diction, writing, and promoting word play.

On Oct. 12, reading and literacy specialists and coaches were given further networking opportunities with Graves, RIC faculty members, and other district leaders at an event titled "Coaching and Supporting Classroom Teachers to Develop Students' Vocabulary."

On Oct. 13, the Rhode Island Special Interest Group of the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages presented "Proven Strategies for Developing Vocabulary with English Language Learners."



Literacy expert Michael Graves speaks at a workshop in the Faculty Center on Oct. 11. It was the first of a three-day series of events sponsored by the reading and TESL graduate programs of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.



Michael Graves, above left, addresses attendees of a conference on developing students' vocabularies in Alger Hall on Oct. 12. At right, RIC professor Robert Rude opens the event, which offered networking opportunities for reading and literacy specialists and coaches.



Linda Iannetta, an ESL teacher in Cumberland, conducts a breakout session at a vocabulary workshop in the Student Union on Oct. 13 that was attended by over 150. In the inset photo are, from left, RIC Associate Professor Willis Poole, featured speaker Michael Graves and RIC Professor Nancy Cloud, who were participants in the workshop.



Displaying the Preserve R.I. award for Preservation and Advocacy are members of the State Home and School Steering Committee, from left, Pierre Morenon, Peg Brown, Patricia Nolin '84, M '87, Eva Neira '03 and Gene St. Pierre '77. Absent from the photo are committee members Ceci Cardoza, Lisa Delmonico, Debra DiScullo, Sandra Enos '71, Richard Hillman '83, Susan Hughes '03, Diane Martell and Karen Paley.

State Home and School Project wins award

The RIC State Home and School Project received Preserve Rhode Island's 2007 Preservation Merit Award at the organization's annual meeting on Oct. 24.

The award was earned in the category of Preservation and Advocacy.

The historic preservation organization praised the State Home and School Project for having "successfully preserved the history of Rhode Island's first and only orphanage, established in Providence in 1884." The project's phases – recording oral histories, renovating the Yellow Cottage (on the College's east campus), restoring the original wrought-iron entrance gates and preserving historical documents – "have

captured the story of not only a time and place, but of the people who lived there," according to Preserve Rhode Island.

Criteria for the award-winning project included adhering to best preservation practices; quality, significance and uniqueness; and impact on surrounding community and/or Rhode Island.

The State Home and School Project began in 2002, and has encompassed many academic disciplines including anthropology, social work, biology, sociology and education. Former residents and staff of the home (later renamed the Patrick I. O'Rourke Children's Center) have contributed their stories and have been advisors to the project.

RIC grad and R.I. Writing Project member wins Milken Educator Award

By Rob Martin
Managing Editor

Though RIC hasn't been called the Rhode Island College of Education for nearly 50 years, it still graduates many of the state's educators – and some of its finest. One such alum, Janine Napolitano '94, M '01, is the Rhode Island recipient of a 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. She will receive \$25,000 and a trip to California to attend the awards ceremony.

The high school English teacher's connections to the College are deeper, however, than just her time there as a student – she's also involved with the RIC-based Rhode Island Writing Project (RIWP).

"Janine has been an active participant in the Rhode Island Writing Project for many years," said Marjorie Roemer, professor of English and executive director of the project. "She was a co-facilitator of our Summer Invitational Institute, a member of our Executive Board, a co-facilitator of our Mentoring Program for New Teachers, and most recently, a co-facilitator for a program on Content Literacy and Communities of Practice that the RIWP ran in North Providence and Woonsocket schools."

Napolitano, who teaches creative writing and is chair of North Providence High School's English Department, credits RIWP with helping her become a more accomplished teacher. Since working with the organization, Napolitano said she evolved as an educator and continues to do so because of her affiliation with the group's literacy leaders. "We are a support system of sorts, to each other and those we mentor around the state," she said.

Peter McWalters, commissioner of elementary and secondary education, praised Napolitano



JANINE NAPOLITANO

for winning the Milken Award. "She created an interdisciplinary literacy team at the high school and she built a partnership between the school and the Rhode Island Writing Project – because she understands that all educators, not just English teachers, must teach student literacy," McWalters said in a release from the state education department.

Napolitano graduated from RIC in 1994 with a degree in secondary ed/English and a middle school endorsement. She earned a master's in composition and teacher research in 2001.

Her master's thesis was titled "Listening to the Whispers: Teaching Reluctant Learners." Last year, she completed a certificate in administration from Providence College.

Napolitano said she benefited greatly from her years at RIC. "I had some wonderful professors like Charlie Lawton, David Brell and Marjorie Roemer who took an interest in me and helped to cultivate the teacher, learner, and student within," she said. "I really learned from them the importance of giving students time to grow."

She and her family were

"shocked" that she received the Milken Award, according to Napolitano. "Mr. Goho, my principal, kept this a big secret up until the moment my name was announced."

Governor Donald L. Carcieri, who presented the award to Napolitano at a ceremony in the high school auditorium on Oct. 15, commended her for serving on the senior-project committee, which he noted would form a critical part of the new high-school graduation requirements.

Napolitano was pleased about the recognition the award will bring to North Providence, the school district and the teachers she works with every day, who she described as "wonderful." The district, she said, allows teachers "to grow into creative practitioners through shared leadership and vision."

But it's the commitment to her students that is at the heart of her drive to excel as an educator. "For me, the only reason to enter this profession is because you are passionate about teaching and being with kids," she said. "This passion makes the best teachers."

A resident of North Providence, Napolitano previously taught at North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School for five years. In 2005, she was selected by the State Council of Teachers of English as the Rhode Island English Teacher of the Year.

The Milken Educator Awards recognize exceptional teachers, principals and other education professionals around the nation. Rhode Island has been a part of the program since 1990, with a total of 66 Milken Award winners to date.

In addition to the cash award and California trip, Napolitano will join a network of over 2,200 educators who have earned the award since it was first given in 1987.



President António Mascarenhas Monteiro, former president of Cape Verde, was the featured guest speaker at the Second Annual Lusophone Conference held on Oct. 19 in the Student Union.



The Office of Student Activities organizes trips and programs, assists with event planning, supports student organizations and advisors, and offers leadership development opportunities.

Recent programs have included trips to Block Island, Salem and WaterFire, as well as Rhode Island College Idol and Iron Chef competitions and Life Skills workshops on personal finance and changing a flat tire.

Student Activities special project assistants are (left to right) Adrian Philips '09, Josh Mendonca '11, Marissa Weiss (assistant director of Student Activities), Ben Frail '10, Steph Bailey '09, Mitch Voyer '09 and Nahendra Dumas '11.

For information on upcoming events, the list of student organizations and monthly Student Activities Calendars, visit www.ric.edu/student_activities.